



FEMA

Disaster News

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NOTE TO EDITOR:

*You can help disaster victims by announcing or publishing the toll-free application number, **1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or TTY 1-800-462-7585**, as often as possible.*

FEDERAL ASSISTANCE TOPS \$1 MILLION FOR WISCONSIN DISASTER VICTIMS

MADISON, WI — In less than two weeks since President Bush signed a major disaster declaration for Wisconsin, a total of \$1,135,944 million in grants and low-interest disaster loans has been approved to assist residents who suffered damages from the severe storms and flooding that began May 19, reported disaster recovery officials from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Wisconsin Emergency Management (WEM).

Federal, state, local and voluntary agencies are working in partnership to help Wisconsin residents in the disaster recovery process. The following is an update of their activities as of close of business Monday, June 28:

- **992** individuals in the disaster declared counties have called to apply for assistance. Number of applicants by county: Columbia (94), Dodge (229), Fond du Lac (237), Jefferson (30), Kenosha (74), Ozaukee (34), and Winnebago (294)
- **481** applications have been approved for Disaster Housing Assistance, totaling **\$910,152** – for repairing disaster-damaged, uninsured homes to a safe, sanitary and functional condition and for temporary disaster rental assistance
- **128** applications have been approved for Other Needs Assistance, totaling **\$77,692** – may include grants for medical, dental, funeral, personal property, transportation and other eligible expenses
- A total of **\$148,100** in U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) low-interest disaster loans have been approved
- **166** people have visited one of the five Disaster Recovery Centers in the affected areas

Call to Apply

Residents and business owners in the designated counties of Columbia, Dodge, Fond du Lac, Jefferson, Kenosha, Ozaukee and Winnebago who sustained damage or loss can begin the disaster application process by calling **1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or TTY 1-800-462-7585** for the hearing and speech impaired. Phone lines will be available from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Saturday, until further notice.

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Disaster Recovery Centers

Two-day Disaster Recovery Center Opens in Port Washington

- In **Port Washington**, a temporary Disaster Recovery Center will be open Monday and Tuesday, July 5 and 6, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., in the Auditorium at the Ozaukee County Administration Bldg, 121 West Main St.

Disaster Recovery Centers will be open 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday, except as noted below, at the following locations:

- **Fond du Lac**, University of Wisconsin in the Large Group Instruction Room at 400 University Drive
- **Oshkosh**, South Park Middle School, 1551 Delaware Street
- **Randolph**, Hutchinson Memorial Library, Community Room Lower Level, 228 North High Street

Closing Friday, July 2, at 7 p.m.:

- **Jefferson**, City of Jefferson Police Dept. Community Room, 425 Collins Road;
(On Thursday, this center's hours will be 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.)
- **Kenosha**, Kenosha County Center, 19600 75th Street (at Highways 50 & 45)

Additional Disaster Recovery Centers may be added as needed.

A total of 166 people have visited one of the five Disaster Recovery Centers to meet face-to-face with disaster recovery officials, get disaster assistance information and receive help in completing their SBA loan applications. Technical experts and/or informational handouts at the centers are available to explain mitigation techniques. Mitigation simply means taking action now to lessen damage to your home or business from a future flood or other severe weather events. The free advice is available to anyone interested in ways to protect their families and homes in future disasters; not just those whose homes were affected by the recent storms.

Disaster Unemployment Assistance

Disaster Unemployment Assistance, which is administered by the state and funded by FEMA, is available to help individuals affected by the disaster who are not covered by regular unemployment insurance. People who live or work in a disaster-declared county may be eligible for DUA if they, as a direct result of the storms and flooding became unemployed or partially unemployed, were unable to reach their place of employment, or lost work because of an injury and are not eligible for regular unemployment insurance benefits.

Those interested should first call the FEMA toll-free application line at **1-800-621-FEMA (3362)**, then file an application by calling the Unemployment Insurance Division at one of the following numbers: In Madison at 1-608-232-0678; in Milwaukee at 1-414-438-7700; toll-free at 1-800-822-5246. A special (TTY) number for the hearing impaired is also available at 1-888-393-8914. The deadline to apply is July 23, 2004.

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Public Assistance

The major disaster declaration made the counties of Clark, Columbia, Crawford, Dodge, Fond du Lac, Grant, Green Lake, Kenosha, Ozaukee, Vernon and Winnebago eligible for the Public Assistance program to assist with infrastructure losses. Local communities and certain qualifying non-profit organizations with eligible damage costs can receive grants that are 75% funded by FEMA and 12.5% funded by the State of Wisconsin with the remaining costs the applicant's share.

Currently, briefings are being held in the declared counties to help local officials understand eligibility requirements and the reimbursement process when applying for federal disaster assistance for debris removal, emergency protective measures and the repair, restoration and replacement of public facilities. *Please note: these briefings are not for individuals affected by the disaster. They are encouraged to call the FEMA toll-free number **1-800-621-FEMA (3362)**, or visit a Disaster Recovery Center.*

On March 1, 2003, FEMA became part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. FEMA's continuing mission within the new department is to lead the effort to prepare the nation for all hazards and effectively manage federal response and recovery efforts following any national incident. FEMA also initiates proactive mitigation activities, trains first responders, and manages Citizen Corps, the National Flood Insurance Program and the U.S. Fire Administration.

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